

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 IO-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 AID-20 INRE-00 /116 W
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P 100406 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9902

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6009

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR II DAILY SITREP, APRIL 9, 1973

FOL TEL SENT SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG APRIL 9, 1973 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE NHA TRANG 375

1. SUMMARY: TWO SERIOUS ENEMY ATTACKS ON RF UNITS IN KONTUM/
PLEIKU BORDER AREA MAR OTHERWISE QUIET WEEKEND. ICCS CANDELS IN
NHA TRANG AND CAM RANH GET INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS. BAN ME THUOT'S
FIRST COMPLETED INVESTIGATION ENDS IN 2-2 SPLIT.

2. MILITARY SITUATION: TWO SERIOUS VC ATTACKS REPORTED EARLY
EVENING APRIL 8 IN KONTUM/ PLEIKU BORDER AREA. IN FIRST, VC
MOUNTED ABF ON RF COMPANY, THEN FOLLOWED UP WITH GROUND ATTACK
THAT RESULTED IN PENETRATION OF COMPOUND. CASUALTY FIGURES
UNKNOWN AT THIS WRITING. IN SECOND INCIDENT, VC UNDERTOOK
COORDINATED ATTACKS ON TWO MUTUALLY- SUPPORTING RF OUTPOSTS
APPROX

16 KMS SW OF KONTUM CITY; BOTH COMPANIES RETREATED UNDER FIRE TO
THEIR BATTALION HQ TWO KMS TO THE NORTH, ARRIVING EARLY
MORNING HOURS APRIL 9. CASUALTY COUNT LIKEWISE NOT YET AVAILABLE,
BUT MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO REACHED BATTALION HQ REPORTEDLY WOUNDED
AND UNKNOWN NUMBER OF RF STILL MISSING.

3. NINE MINOR ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS INVOLVING CONTACT ALSO
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REPORTED LAST 24 HOURS, WITH LIGHT CUMULATIVE CASUALTIES RESULTING: RVNAF, ONE KIA, 10 WIA, AND THREE RF DEPENDENTS WOUNDED IN SMALL-ARMS ATTACK ON OUTPOST IN BINH DINH; VC, FIVE KIA. IN ADDITION, VC MINED CULVERT ON QL-1 IN WESTERN HAM THUAN DISTRICT, BINH THUAN, NIGHT OF APRIL 8. MINING REPORTEDLY CAUSED SERIOUS DAMAGE BUT ROAD IS STILL USABLE. TWO PHAN THIET CANDELS WENT TO SCENE MORNING OF APRIL 9 TO OBSERVE OR INVESTIGATE.

4. MAJOR GVN SUCCESS IN PERIOD CAME IN DI LINH DISTRICT, LAM DONG, WHERE RF PATROL EVIDENTLY CAUGHT VC UNIT OFF GUARD. IN SHARP CLASH THAT FOLLOWED, VC LOST SIX KIA AND THREE CREW- SERVED AND NINE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS; RF LOSSES WERE NIL.

3. ICCS: SAIGON CANDEL REP CONCERNED WITH DUTIES OF POE TEAM MET LAST WEEK WITH NHA TRANG AND CAM RANH CANDELS. HE INFORMED THEM OF DETAILS OF AGREEMENT REACHED WITH GVN AND POE PROCEDURES. A COMPUTER IN SAIGON IS TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL GVN EQUIPMENT, REPLACEMENTS, AND IN- COUNTRY TRANSHIPMENTS. NHA TRANG CANDEL LATER TOLD POLOFF THAT CANADIANS WERE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH SATISFACTORY POE PROCEDURES WITH GVN; WITH SUCH AN AGREEMENT IN HAND, THEY BELIEVE THEY CAN CONFRONT PRG AT ITS POE'S AND REQUEST FORMULATION OF EQUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS.

6. NHA TRANG CANDEL ALSO NOTED COMPLETE UNINTEREST OF HIS POLISH AND HUNGARIAN COLLEAGUES IN THEIR WORK. DESPITE POSSIBILITY THEY COULD STIR UP TROUBLE WITH SPECIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF GVN VIOLATIONS IF THEY CHOSE TO POKE AROUND NHA TRANG PORT AREA, THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO. POLDEL INTERPRETER WHO DEPARTED ON ROTATION TO CHEO REO APRIL 8 CANDIDLY ADMITTED THAT NHA TRANG TEAM HAS DONE VIRTUALLY NOTHING SINCE ARRIVAL.

7. BAN ME THUOT TEAM'S LONG- RUNNING INVESTIGATION INTO EARLY- MARCH ATTACK ON 685 TH RF COMPANY IN BUON HO DISTRICT HAS NOW RESULTED IN A SPLIT REPORT, WITH CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS CONDEMNING VC FOR A VIOLATION AND EAST EUROPEANS DISSENTING. THIS IS ONE INVESTIGA-

TION BMT TEAM HAS BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE OF SIX SO FAR ASSIGNED TO IT. TWO OTHERS IN BUON HO WERE ABANDONED, ONE INVOLVING SAME RF COMPANY BECAUSE OF HOPELESSLY CONFUSING EVIDENCE AND ONE BECAUSE UNIT INVOLVED (1/45 TH ARVN REGT) HAD SINCE LEFT PROVINCE. FOURTH INCIDENT COULD NOT BE INVESTIGATED BECAUSE OF MISTAKEN COORDINATES FURNISHED BY GVN; FIFTH (QUANG NHIEU VILLAGE) FELL APART WHEN DARLAC

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PROVINCE AUTHORITIES, ASKED FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CAME BACK WITH INFO THAT CONFLICTED WITH THEIR ORIGINAL COMPLAINT; AND SIXTH CASE WAS SENT BACK TO REGIONAL HQ BECAUSE IT TOOK PLACE IN PLEIKU PROVINCE. BMT TEAM-- WHICH OVER WEEKEND SAW THREE POLES OFF TO DUC CO AND RECEIVED THREE FROM CHEO REO-- HAS NOTHING ELSE ON ITS AGENDA FOR TIME BEING.

8. CANDEL IN CHEO REO TOLD POLOFF HE THINKS REPORTED SHOOT- DOWN OF TWO ICCS HELICOPTERS NEAR LAO BAO APRIL 7 HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED LIKELIHOOD THAT CANADA WILL WITHDRAW FROM ICCS. HE ADDED VIEW THAT IF SUCH AN INCIDENT HAD HAPPENED IN MARCH CANADA WOULD ALREADY HAVE DECIDED TO WITHDRAW. CHEO REO TEAM MEANWHILE STRUGGLING WITH REPORT ON FIRST INVESTIGATION; PROBLEMS INCLUDE MISSING PORTIONS OF TESTIMONY AND TRANSLATION DIFFICULTIES.

9. REGION IV ICCS FAIRLY WELL REPRESENTED AT FESTIVITIES SURROUND- ING DEDICATION OF NEW CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN PHAN THIET APRIL 7; ONLY POLES STAYED AWAY. HUNGARIANS MISSED MAIN CEREMONY, SUPPOSEDLY BECAUSE OF ERROR IN TRANSLATION OF THEIR INVITATION, BUT MADE IT TO BANQUET. ALSO PRESENT WERE GVN MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND ROC AMBASSADOR.

10. ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS FROM REGION III HQ IN PLEIKU ACCOMPANIED PROVINCE CHIEF ON SOCIAL OUTING TO BUON CHAM VILLAGE AT SOUTHERN END OF PROVINCE APRIL 7. WE IMAGINE PC' S UNSTATED MOTIVE IN ORGANIZING THE EVENT WAS TO DEMONSTRATE GVN CONTROL OF QL-14.
ENGLE
UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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